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NT Bureau

Wednesday, 26 August 2015



Chennai : 'When we were ruled by the British they took away two important things from us -- One is the wealth we had and other is the thought that we are innovators. We were brainwashed into believing

that we cannot be innovators and that thought continues even today.

When we think of innovators our mind only thinks of foreigners,' said V A Shiva Ayyadurai, who invented 'EMAIL' at the age of 14.

'Such is the effect of the brainwashing that our dignity is lost. This thought should be changed and Indians should be made as rolemodels,' he told reporters here yesterday.

'My native is Mugavoor in Rajapalayam and basically I am from a farmer's family. My grandmother was a farmer and after her works in the farm she served as an Ayurveda doctor.

This gave me interest in the medical field. When I went to



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the UMDNJ I thought I would be given a medical research job, instead I was told to make the inter-office mail system to a electronic format and that is how 'EMAIL' was invented on 30 August 1979 . I gave the name 'EMAIL' as the programming language accepted only five letters. there was no legal protection for software at that time and hence I got the copyright on 1982.'

About the education system in India, Shiva Ayyadurai said, 'There is no relationship between innovation and education. We have been innovating as long as 5000 years ago. The only aspect which is required to become an innovator is mentorship. Any innovation should be based on real time difficulties. There should be a customer for any innovation only then the practical difficulties will be known.'

Talking about his current project, he said, 'Currently we are working on a system known as Cytosolve. By using this, animal testing of medicines can be stopped and molecular patterns can be developed to test medicines. We have developed a medicine for pancreatic cancer and the US FDA has approved it recently.'

About the future of EMAIL, he said,' Artificial intelligence should be integrated with the EMAIL system. Instead using a keyboard, voice recognised mail system should be used. Even though social media and texting have become famous, they can never replace EMAIL as it is the best formal way to communicate in business.'

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